

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

SUBJECT The Port of Poti

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF
INFO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1.

though [redacted] did not observe any new construction work, saw a number of the smaller naval craft, submarine chasers, minesweepers, and motor patrol boats.

Submarine

2.

[redacted] noticed that there was a large submarine in the floating dock but [redacted] unable to get a clear view of it. It was not a very modern type, in the opinion of source.

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Shipping in the Port

3.

[redacted] noticed the following ships in the port:

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- Two large Soviet destroyers of about 1,500 tons and one minesweeper of 1,000 tons.
- No foreign shipping could be seen in the port other than Bulgarian and Romanian craft.
- The Romanian ship Mangolia of 1,200 tons and the Soviet ship Jean Jaures, a former Liberty ship of 10,000 tons, were in the port. Both were unarmed, though the Jean Jaures had a gunmounting.

Procedure for Entering the Port

4. Before entering the port the ship takes on board a pilot and two frontier guard officers. Once inside the port a commission composed of frontier guards, customs officers, a medical officer, a veterinary surgeon, an agricultural expert, the harbor master's representative, and the Inflat agent,

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come on board. The crew has to enter the saloon while their identity is checked and a thorough search is made of the ship, taking three to five hours. Passports are checked by the MVD and then returned to the crew, after which they are permitted to go ashore. The radio is closed down; binoculars, cameras, and arms are locked up on board and sealed.

5. In spite of the above elaborate procedure, the port is neither clean nor well organized. Work is done slowly and listlessly.

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6. In order to go into town, it was necessary to have a mariner's pay book and a Soviet pass. This pass is in two parts, one part of which is left with the Soviet guard on duty and the other is carried. Men were never seen to be searched on going ashore.

Dock Labor

7. At Poti there are many Bessarabians and Caucasians who speak Turki and Georgian and work on the docks. They are in a lamentable condition in rags, dirty, and often drunk; they work slowly and unwillingly. Women also work as dockers and are in equally bad condition. On the other hand, the port employers are well dressed uniforms, though they too are slow and lazy.

Depth of Water

8. The depth of the sea in port is more than 10 meters. Fully loaded ships of 10,000 tons were able to come alongside the quay.

General Information

9. The following general information
- a. No anti-aircraft defense was seen.
 - b. Many more Soviet naval ratings were observed than in any other Soviet port.
 - c. The water is not drinkable and has to be brought from elsewhere.
 - d. sailors are free to move wherever they wish to, and are treated quite cordially by Soviet authorities.
 - e. Shops are half empty.

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Cost of Living

10. Following are a few samples of the cost of living:

1 kilo of yogurt	10 rubles
1 liter of wine	20 rubles
1 liter of vodka	80 rubles

In a restaurant:

1 portion of fish	20 rubles
1 portion of meat	10 - 15 rubles
1 bottle of beer	3 rubles

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